

**DISCLAIMER**

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**Day 17**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**9:26am**

**I. GOVERNMENT ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**i. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.1) 2020/2021- second reading & Debate on the Bill (cont.)**

**i. Afioga Hon FAUMUINA Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa**

The Hon Member commenced by accentuating the theme attained from the Scripture Psalms 24 “a pure heart and clean hands is where God resides” and asserted that blessings flow from above, to emphasize the importance of good governance in procuring benefits for the development of the nation.

The Hon Member continued with the issue raised regarding the Unit Trust of Samoa (UTOS) and stated that he was made aware of a 3 year grace period to procure 10million.

**Hon Prime Minister – Clarification**

*Hon PM interjected to clarify that the UTOS was initially planned in 1972 when the SNPF was established, with the intention that the SNPF would be established to ensure employees with contributions in the Fund can reap benefits from their hard earned income upon retirement as a superannuation package. Touched upon privatization of government assets i.e Tanoa Tusitala, Vailima, Samoatel. Noted post Cabinet deliberations at the time Samoatel could not be sold without the establishment of UTOS. Hon PM asserted that the Samoan people hold quarter of the shares for the Vodafone Company through the UTOS.*

**HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga-Member for Palauli-Le-FALEFA (cont.)**

The Member noted that the graduation of Samoa from LDC was an indication that Samoa's economy was growing. Hon Member recalled past natural disasters (Heta (2004), Tsunami (2009), and Evan (2012) which left costly damages, yet Samoa did not use these natural disasters to delay Samoa's graduation from LDC. The Member recalled that more than \$700 million was the total recovery cost for Tsunami, while \$40million for the recovery for Evan. The Hon Member noted that the estimated recovery cost totaled 2 billion in damages from natural disasters. The Hon Member applauded Government for their efforts to ensure Samoa's progress. He stressed that Samoa's foreign donors have faith in transparent appropriation of funds disbursed and further noted that Samoa has become the failsafe for the Pacific in terms of playing host to events and is further evidence of good governance.

**HON PRIME MINISTER**

*The Hon Prime Minister echoed sentiments made by the Member for Palauli le Falefa in regards to the damages incurred from Cyclone Ofa & Valelia. Hon PM recalled the calamity caused by Cyclone Ofa with winds at 125mph & elaborated on the strength of the Cyclone. The Hon Prime Minister recalled the timely manner which the late Tofilau led government efficient recovery efforts. Hon PM noted that prior to the Cyclone, he as the Minister of Finance at the time had signed an agreement with ADB of which proved imperative in responding to the damages. An amount of \$15million from the ADB for general development purposes was signed in December the year prior to Cyclone Ofa, made recovery efforts possible and efficient for the Government at the time. Hon PM recalled events of Cyclone Heta whereby an anomaly weather pattern was noted by Meteorologist as a "Miracle", in the sense that it reverted its path and hit the Cook Island's instead. Hon PM stressed that this is an illustration of Gods favour upon Samoa and fruits of Samoa's prayers and fasting.*

**HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

Hon Member continued, and spoke on the tender process for Alaoa Dam, he called for a joint venture (a local contractor to collaborate with overseas contractors), and stated that the donor requirement of cash flow of \$10 million in the Bank as a minimum threshold. Posed the feasibility of the 10million and stated that usually local contractors have assets instead of cash.

- **Afioga Hon SILI Epa Tuiofi, Minister for Finance**

The Hon Minister clarified that it is a matter of capacity hence tender precedence is given to overseas contractors. He reiterated that this does not mean locals will not be involved and assured that they will be afforded the sub-contractor role.

### HON PRIME MINISTER TUILAEPÄ - CLARIFICATION

*The Hon Prime Minister clarified to the Member for Palauli that there are principles of ADB of which adherence is imperative, and noted that there are compromises required and stipulations of which these funds are disbursed.*

- **Afioga Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister stood to accentuate sentiments by the Minister of Finance, Hon PM and noted that these funds are released with conditions. The Minister asserted that government will seek to bargain with overseas donors to incorporate local contractors in projects. The Minister also stated that ADB and other development partners had given 100 million for the development of the dam as mentioned by the Member.

### HON PRIME MINISTER TUILAEPÄ – Clarification

*The Hon Prime Minister sought to accentuate point made by the Minister of Works, stated that OTT construction operates with international accredited standard & regardless Government will continue to delegate these contracts to locals for consistency purposes. Furthermore, the PM noted that government seeks to foster capacity for all local contractors.*

- **Afioga TAFUA Maluelue Tafua – Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo**

The Member sought to accentuate sentiments made by the Prime Minister in regards to the coastal road to the Airport and called the House to instill OTT Construction as the main project manager to oversee road construction and subcontract other parts of the project to local contractors.

### HON PRIME MINISTER - Clarification

*Hon PM noted that operating with Common Sense is imperative.*

- **Afioga Hon LOPAOO Natanielu Mu'a – Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries**

The Hon Minister called to Mr Speaker to enforce house rules i.e remove cellphones and to ensure the dignity of the House is upheld, the Minister asserted that Members are present for parliamentary proceedings, and should therefore be aware about the deliberations going on in the House.

**MR SPEAKER – Point of Order**

Hon Speaker reminded the Members' of the rules of the House, and urged Members to abide by removing their mobile phones and not using them while in the Maota.

- **Afioga Hon PAPALIITELE Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure**

The Hon Minister refuted claims made by the Member for Aleipata Itupa i Lalo that by affording all contracts to the Ott construction will enable them to have more money by monopolising the market, and stated that the statements made by the Member regarding the poor condition of a recently developed road in his constituency. The Hon Minister stated that in regards to the Chairperson for the Infrastructure Sector Committee calling for Ott to be the overseeing agent of roads this is an insult to the Tenders Board, Ministry, and the LTA.

**Proceedings were suspended at 10:51am**

**Proceedings resumed at 11:42am**

**HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member continued that the rationale of his issues raised, is to increase country votes are all the same irrespective of financial standing. In regards to NPF, the Member requested the responsible Minister to amend the Act for all contributors to receive the same incentives. In 1996 the Parliamentary Pension Scheme came about which comprise of the MPs, HoS and COD.

**HON TUILAEPA – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM elaborated on the Parliamentary Scheme, contributions to this scheme has risen from 5 to 10%, noted that government pays half of this contribution. Hon PM explained that Members may borrow 50% from their contribution in the Parliamentary Pension Scheme while the remaining 50% will be given out partially when the Member is eligible for pension (i.e., 65yrs) this is in addition to the community pension afforded to all pensioners of Samoa.*

*Hon PM noted that the rationale behind the scheme was during 1988 when a former parliamentarian whom did not get re-elected was seen begging in the community post his parliamentary career; which reflected negatively on the Government, hence the inception of the Parliamentary Pension Scheme.*

**HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member mentioned 'street vendors' and asserted that he too was a street vendor, hence his refuting claims that street vendors were not educated; as street vendors are intelligent and have practical real world experience. Refuted claims that it is 'child labour' and stated this is their means of which they can make a living. He noted that measures for intelligence are not optimised to be practical to a Samoan perspective. (i.e education concept is vague and cannot encompass a realistic measure). He suggested that the Minister and the Ministry of Women should look at establishing a legislation to protect the street vendors.

- **Afioga LEALAILEPULE Rimoni Aiafi, Member for Faleata West and Associate Minister for Communication and Information Technology**

I too was a street vendor in my mind; noted that the member's intention is good however it affords autonomy on choices on whether to go to school. The Member asserted that there are Acts in place, which may come in conflict with what the Member is requesting.

- **Afioga Hon TUITAMA Dr Talalelei Tuitama, Minister for Women, Community and Social Development**

The Hon Minister accentuated that there is currently a legislation in place to enforce the initiative of compulsory education, with the assistance of the Police officers to ensure the proper enactment of the law and a collective approach to oversee that students are in school during school hours. The Government's concern was the odd hours of children selling items on the roads and it is not safe.

The Hon Minister then suggested to the Ministry of Women to have these cultural treasures, 'ie samoa' that have been woven by Women and girl in the Women's committee, to be safely stored rather than encourage the sale for income. Furthermore, the Hon Minister also suggested having these teachings included in programs, so that young women and girls are able to weave fine mats 'ie samoa', to keep our culture alive.

- **Afioga ALAIASA Moefaaouuo Sepulona Moananu, Member for Anoamaa East and Associate Minister for Education, Sports and Culture.**

The Member noted that getting kids off the street is imperative as it is an indicator of poverty.

#### **HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member asserted that ‘you can lead the horse to the water, but if it does not want to drink, it will not’. The Member further noted that Members whom spoke did not read reports made by the Ministry of Education. Affirmed that there are kids whom dislike school (student’s dropout from schools). Afioga Faumuina clarified that he is not stating to forgo school rather implement a means of which these disadvantaged individuals can obtain an optimal standard of living. He affirmed that these troubled teen eventually resort to crime to make ends meet.

#### **HON TUILAIPA – Point of Clarification**

*The Hon PM stated that, some of these street vendors, actually attend school and it is truly parents’ intention for the street vendors to stay out late at night just to sell these things. Also confirmed that we are still poor, and we are still trying everyday. The Government has taken the chance to put these kids in school however, they will always end up on the streets because the parents are not doing their duty to encourage these children to stay in school.*

#### **HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member noted the sports field which is needed for his constituency. In regards to the leasing of customary land lease, the member suggested to update the records promptly when the lease has expired, to avoid false accusation that the Government has taken the lands by force.

- **Afioga Hon LOAU Solamalemalo Keneti Sio, Minister for Education, Sports and Culture.**

The Hon Minister confirmed to the Member for Palauli le Falefa that the field is currently in progress.

#### **HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member concluded by addressing the Speaker, and all fellow Parliamentarians on their successful retirement.

- **Afioga Hon FAASOOTAULOA Pati Taulapapa, Member for Gagaemauga No.2**

The Hon member stood to quash qualms made by dissidents stating that he stood idly by while government amended their borders and only Laauli stood to defend their seat.

**HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member commended the Minister for MCIL for the RSE programme as it has helped families with low standard of living.

- **Afioga Hon LAUTAFI Fio Selafi Purcell, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Labour**

The Hon Minister accentuated that this programme is for anyone who wishes to apply but not particular for low standard living families.

**Hon PRIME**

The Hon PM noted the concerns raised by the Member

**HON FAUMUINA Faaolatane Tiatia Liuga, Member for Palauli le Falefa (continued)**

The Hon Member concluded his speech with acknowledgement of the late Toleafoa Vaafusuaga Ken Poutoa for the work he was able to do as a Member for Lefaga & Faaleaseela. He acknowledged CEO's and General Managers and relayed upon them blessing to go forth and continue to make Samoa great. Hon Member also acknowledged the NEOC and relevant partners for their continuous work to safeguard Samoa. Acknowledged his Committee Chairperson and all Parliamentary Committees and the Hon PM and Cabinet.

**Proceedings were adjourned at 1:08pm  
Parliament will again reconvene on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 9am.**